

Make the Promise

I want to share with you the story of one John Stephen Athwart. Born in 1942 in Tanzania, John was 160 cm tall and weighed in at around 50 Kgs. In October 20th, 1968, the summer Olympics was being held in Mexico City.

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John created an impression, an impression that would last far beyond that day. It would travel through history. I'm writing about it for you to read and I am certain that for many more generations to come will hear of John Stephen Athwart. John participated in the marathon. A marathon where 74 people had started the race. Of the 74

who did, only 57 managed to complete the race. Yes John was indeed one of the 57 who did, and I wish I could say that he came first in the race. But he didn't! John, did not come first. He did complete the race, and that in itself was a huge feat. Of the 57 that finished the

race, John actually came in last. But if that wasn't enough, there was more. He came in over an hour and a half later than what the judges had thought was the last person to cross the finish line. If that wasn't enough, there was more.

John was so late, that the winners' ceremony was completed and the medals were handed to the respective athletes. Many spectators had left and were leaving when suddenly they were informed about a man who seemed to be heading towards the stadium. John had got injured along the way, having hurt his knee. In fact, he had dislocated his joint (a challenge so to speak considering a working knee joint is imperative when competing in a marathon). Nonetheless, with his bandaged and bloody leg, John continued with his quest of moving forward and completing the marathon. As I mentioned, by the time he hobbled into the stadium, it had been over an hour and a half since the last person had crossed the finish line. But that didn't matter – John needed to keep going until he crossed the finish line, because unbeknown to most people, John Stephen Akhwari was no ordinary man. He was unlike most people who set a goal and then give in to the challenges the world throws their way. If you were with me some years ago, you would have seen me make a similar promise one sunny afternoon sitting in my room looking out the window. I wrote two sentences on a piece of paper that I remain true to, and teach my students to do the same. The first sentence read, "I Will Always Win"

It's wasn't because I was better than anyone, not because I was smarter than anyone and certainly wasn't because I had more resources than anyone. It was all because of the second sentence that I followed it with, which read, "Because I Will Never Quit".

A British Politician, known for his leadership around World War Two, gave a famous speech in October 29, 1941. This segment of which I believe rings a bell in the ears of many past, present and future successful people. He said, "Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never--in nothing, great or small, large or petty--never give in, except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy." You know this Figure as Winston Churchill

Everyone around you will want to achieve their goals and dreams, but unfortunately they give up when the going gets tough. When the going gets tough, the Tough must Fight Back. When the going gets tough, you

must remember that the game of life is not a game of convenience. If it was, everyone would win and be successful. It's a game of mental toughness.

Every winner has made The Promise, be it in private or in public, and that is to never ever ever ever give up, no matter what. They have locked in on their target, and will not stop until they get to it. They might be delayed, they might be challenged beyond their beliefs, they might be forced to take alternative routes, but what ever happens they are committed to their promise, and will never break it.

"IF YOU WANT TO BE A WINNER, IF YOU WANT TO BE SUCCESSFUL, IF YOU WANT TO BE A LEADER, IF YOU WANT TO BE AN INSPIRATION TO THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU, YOUR FELLOW COLLEAGUES, YOUR BUSINESS, YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, SOCIETY OR THE WORLD, YOU NEED TO MAKE THE PROMISE. THE PROMISE TO NEVER EVER GIVE UP."

Winners have one exit strategy, and it is to achieve what they set out to do.

If you want to be a winner, if you want to be successful, if you want to be a leader, if you want to be an inspiration to the people around you, your fellow colleagues, your business, your family, friends, society or the world, you need to make The Promise. The Promise to Never Ever Give Up.

Moving forward, when ever you are faced with a challenge, I want you to think of the examples I have shared with you. I want you to remember my promise, Will Smith's Commitment, Winston Churchill's Emphasis on Never Giving In and John's painful Marathon.

John might have finished fashionably late, but at the end of it all, had done it. John had crossed the line. An uncrowned King on the Day, but an Inspirational Figure who will be talked about for generations to come. He made a promise to his country, but more importantly he made to himself.

When John was asked why he kept going despite the pain? He said, "My country didn't send me 5000 miles to Mexico City to start the race, my country sent me 5000 miles to finish the race"

Make The Promise to Never Quit-

I believe!

What Ever you're into and What Ever You Choose to set out to finish the Race.

Have a Winning Month. **BIG**



(Kevin Abdulrahman is an International Author, Motivational Public Speaker on Leadership and Mind Nutrition Expert. He is making his third book available to the readers of BIG. Log on to <http://www.kevinAbdulrahman.com/thegift> and enter the code "Vision" to receive your free copy.)